



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

GSA @ JDLH Family,

During Week 12, our students and staff have been steadily sharpening “their professional edge” and getting better each week. Reflecting over the last few weeks, there has been exponential growth within our student’s academic and residential life habits. Whereas a typical high school student is finished with their educational experience at 3:30 PM most days, a residential school never stops. Our students are learning how to live independently and manage their time, like a college student. Most students have adjusted to residential life by now. Those students who are “at-risk” with low grades are given multiple opportunities to make up their work until they fully understand the material. To fail a class here, a student has to try to fail. I would like to give a kudos to our cafeteria staff! These ladies are keeping us all well fed and are very hard workers who meets you with a smile. We appreciate you all!

From Dr. Stacy Platt – English Instructor: “For the last three weeks, Mr. Morton and I have been co-teaching my English 3 Honors an Aldo Leopold’s book *A Sand County Almanac* unit. This unit is focusing on the message from the father of conservation and nature. We do lessons outside and inside. We have also been working on research essays and projects on Ag related topics (Animal Welfare, Drone Technology, Water Rights, DNR, etc.) Wednesday you saw some of the activities we do in class – the courtship rituals of birds like the American Woodcock. Yesterday, we completed our work on bird courtship and the “Sky Dance” chapter from the book. Grace did the blue-footed booby, JD did the duck, Vance did the turkey, and Riley did the manican and the vogelkop.” Please see the attached videos for your entertainment purposes!

From Libby Templeton – Animal Science Instructor: “The animal science class this week toured and learned how to Artificial Inseminate sows at Clemson University. The Equine Science class helped Mrs. Miller with the field trip students learn about grooming, tack, picking hooves, and riding horses. Animal Science helped sort cows and moved them to get them in the appropriate pastures to watch them because they are due to calve. I judged the Saluda Animal Science Class Beef Showmanship Class. Ms. Giba went and recruited students in Ag Science classes at Saluda the same day. We also harvested 2 chickens and processed them in animal science class.”

From Dana Martin – Director of Residential Life: “Residential Life is pleased to announce that Matthew Brownlee, Resident Advisor for Nickles Residence Hall, has earned his American FFA award! Matthew received his American FFA Degree Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at the National FFA Convention ceremony for American Degree Recipients. The American FFA degree is the highest degree achievable for a member in the FFA and is awarded to those that have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the FFA Organization. 1% of FFA members nationally are awarded this degree each year. To be able to receive this Degree an FFA member must complete an application and have received the State FFA Degree previously. To be qualified you must complete 3 years of agricultural education instruction, have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience program, earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500, and have participated in 50 hours or more of community service projects. Mr. Brownlee was in FFA for all four years of high school where he focused on his Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) in Diversified Agriculture and served as



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the South Carolina FFA State Vice President for the 2019-20 year during his freshman year of college. Being awarded the American FFA Degree marks the end of wearing the Blue and Gold FFA Jacket for Mr. Brownlee but he plans to become an Agriculture Teacher upon graduating from Clemson University to give back to the organization that gave him so much during his time in it.

We are also excited to welcome Michael Murphy as the new full-time Resident Advisor for Palmetto residence hall! Mr. Murphy will join us on Monday, November 9, 2020. Mr. Murphy is currently a senior at Spartanburg Methodist College majoring in History and English. He joins us with two years of resident advisor experience. Please join us in welcoming him to campus!"

From Ken Durham – Director of Facilities and Maintenance:

1. The final grading for the Welcome Center should be complete this week. Paving and finishes will be complete by the end of next week. A-3 is scheduled to install the arms and card readers on the 16th. If all goes as expected this project will be complete before Thanksgiving.
2. Renovation of McCormick, Savannah and Abbeville is underway.
3. Dog kennels will begin construction this week.
4. A new hog facility is being discussed with potential design soon. Maintenance and farm representatives visited the Clemson hog facility this week.
5. The rear barn across highway 81 is scheduled to have a concrete floor installed. The barn will then be used as a temporary hog facility. This work is out for quotes this week.
6. An asbestos/lead paint study for the Administration building is scheduled for next week. An architectural firm is currently providing a feasibility study for this facility. The intent is to use this building for core courses, conference room, auditorium and offices in the future.
7. An engineering firm was on site this week to provide generator specifications for the Welcome Center, Cafeteria, IT room and several Residential Halls.
8. Required paperwork has begun for the demolition of 250 branch drive.
9. 117 security lights have been purchased for the campus. The fixtures are on site and the installation contract has been awarded. The work will begin as soon as the poles arrive on campus. Unfortunately, this may be a few weeks out. We are still waiting on an arrival date for the poles.
10. A concrete sidewalk around the flagpole was designed by a group of students and maintenance is currently working on implementing that design.

From Kinsley Miller – Director of the Education Center: "The Education Center had a group of middle schoolers from Belton, SC on Monday for a field trip experience. The group was able to tour campus and participate in an Equine Science lab taught by our very own Equine Science class and farm staff member Heather Fields. Thanks to all who helped make this field trip a success! We also had a visit with a representative from Vertical Engineering to discuss plans for restoring the High Ropes Course. This will be an important component for summer camps and outdoor recreation curriculum!"

Aggie of the Week: Hampton Davis, from Norway, SC is our Aggie of the Week! According to RA, Taylin Kneece, "He always makes sure his room is clean. He is very respectful and always tries to do the right thing. Hampton is always willing to help other with homework, even outside of T.I.L.L time. He has also helped other students who are struggling with their home work after he completes his own. Hampton is a cowboy who competes in the SC High School Rodeo Association where he represents us well! This



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weekend he is representing our school at a competition in Perry, GA. Hampton is a pleasure to have here on campus.

GO AGGIES!